

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A molded product comprising:
 - a molded body, which is formed by filling a molding material into molds composed of a plurality of molding member components, with molding portions being formed at some of the molding member components; and
 - a coating, which is formed on surfaces of the molded body by a predetermine coating agent;
 - wherein the coating is formed by mounting masks to coated-portion molding members of some of plural molding member components before the molding material filled, the coated-portion molding members corresponding to portions of the molded body to which the coating is applied, the masks being capable of covering parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding members and being formed by using the mold-shapes of the coated-portion molding members;
 - applying the coating agent to the molding portions of the coated-portion molding members in the state in which the masks have been mounted; and
 - removing the masks from the coated-portion molding members after the coating agent has been applied, clamping the molds together, and molding the molded body.
2. (Withdrawn) The molded product of claim 1, wherein the masks comprise:
 - mask bodies, whose peripheries corresponding to the peripheries of the parting surfaces and whose portions facing to the parting surfaces are formed in correspondence with the parting surfaces; and
 - adjusting portions, which are fixed to at least the peripheries or the facing portions of the mask bodies, and whose portions fixed to the mask bodies are formed in correspondence with shapes of the parting surfaces.
3. (Withdrawn) The molded product of claim 2, wherein the adjusting portions are formed by time-hardening members that harden after an elapse of predetermined period of time, wherein the time-hardening members can tightly contact the mask bodies,

can be plastically deformed and partially cut off by an external force applied thereof, and are integrally bonded to the mask bodies by hardening while adhering to the mask bodies.

4. (Withdrawn) The molded product of claim 3, wherein the masks further comprise engaging portions, which engage with predetermined portions of the coated-portion molding members in the state in which the masks being mounted to the coated-portion molding members such that the masks are held by the coated-portion molding members.

5. (Withdrawn) The molded product of claim 4, wherein the molding member component, including an accommodating portion for accommodating a portion of the molded body to which the coating is not applied, is used such that the molded product has a portion to which the coating is not applied.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a molded product, wherein a coating comprising a predetermined coating agent is applied on a surface of a molded body formed by filling a molding material into a mold, the method comprising the steps of:

a) mounting masks onto parting surfaces of coated-portion molding members of some of plural molding member components which compose the mold, with molding portions that mold the molded body being formed at some of the molding member components, the coated-portion molding members corresponding to portions of the molded body to which the coating is applied, the masked being capable of covering the parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding members and being formed by using the mold-shape of the mold of the coated-portion molding members;

b) applying the coating agent to the molding portions of the coated-portion molding members in the state in which the masks have been mounted;

c) removing the masks from the coated-portion molding members after the coating agent has been applied; and

d) filling the molding material into the mold.

7. (Withdrawn) The method for producing a molded product of claim 6, wherein the molding member component including an accommodating portion for accommodating a portion of the molded body to which the coating is not applied is used.

8. (Currently Amended) An improved apparatus for molding steering wheels, wherein the improvement comprises [[A]] a mask for covering parting surfaces of steering wheel molding members, the mask being mountable to a coated-portion steering wheel molding members corresponding to portions of a molded [[body]] steering wheel surface on which a coating is formed, before a molding material which forms the molded [[body]] steering wheel is filled into a mold composed of a plurality of steering wheel molding member components, with molding portions being formed at some of the molding member components, the mask having a shape that corresponds to the surface shape of the coated-portion steering wheel molding member,

wherein the mask has a peripheral portion[[that covers]] covering parting surfaces of the coated-portion steering wheel molding member in the state in which the mask is mounted to the coated-portion molding member, [[to prevent]] and preventing the formation of flash around a periphery of a molded steering wheel from said coating.

9. (Currently amended) The improved apparatus [[The mask covering parting surfaces]] of claim 8, wherein the mask further comprises [[comprising]]:

mask bodies, whose peripheries correspond to peripheries of the parting surfaces and whose portions facing the parting surfaces are formed in correspondence with the parting surfaces; and

adjusting portions, which are fixed to at least the peripheries or the facing portions of the mask bodies, and whose portions fixed to the mask bodies are formed in correspondence with shapes of the parting surfaces.

10. (Currently amended) The improved apparatus [[mask for covering parting surfaces]] of claim 9, wherein the adjusting portions of the mask are formed by time-hardening members [[harden]] hardened after an elapse of predetermined period of time, wherein the time-hardening members can tightly contact the mask bodies, can be

plastically deformed and partially cut off by an external force applied thereof, and are integrally bonded to the mask bodies by hardening while adhering to the mask bodies.

11. (Currently amended) The improved apparatus [[mask for covering parting surfaces]] of claim 10 wherein the mask, further [[comprising]] comprises engaging portions, which engage with predetermined portions of the coated-portion molding members in the state in which the masks [[being]] are mounted to the coated-portion molding members [[such that the masks]] are held by the coated-portion molding members.

12. (Currently amended) The improved apparatus [[parting surface covering masks]] of claim 11, wherein the mask bodies are molded out of a hard synthetic resin material.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for producing masks for covering parting surfaces, the masks being mountable to coated-portion molding members, the coated-portion molding members being members of plural molding member components which compose a mold for molding a molded product having a surface coated, and which include molding portions for molding the coated portions of a molded body, the masks covering parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding members in the state in which the masks are mounted to the coated-portion molding members, the masks preventing a coating agent applied to the molding portions from adhering to the parting surfaces before the coated-portion molding members are clamped together; the method comprising the steps of:

a) molding mother-molds corresponding to the parting surfaces, by laminating a mother-mold molding member, which reaches a predetermined rigidity after hardening, to the parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding members, and to predetermined portions of the coated-portion molding members except the molding portions to which the coating agent is applied, and molding the mother-mold molding member along the parting surfaces and the predetermined portions of the coated-portion molding members;

b) producing mask-forming molds including mask-forming portions whose

peripheries correspond to peripheries of the mother-molds by tightly attaching a mold-forming member to substantially all peripheries of the mother-molds; and

c) molding at least mask bodies of the masks covering the parting surfaces by filling a mask-molding material into the mask-forming molds.

14. (Withdrawn) The producing method of the parting surface covering masks of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

attaching adjusting members, which are plastically deformed by at least a predetermined amount of external force, to at least one of peripheries of the mask bodies and portions of the mask bodies facing the parting surfaces; and

forming the adjusting members in correspondence with shapes of surfaces of the coated-portion molding members by pressing the mask bodies toward the coated-portion molding members in a state in which the mask bodies to which the adjusting members being attached are temporarily mounted to the coated-portion molding members.

15. (Withdrawn) The producing method of the parting surface covering masks of claim 13, wherein a mold-filling member, which is plastically deformed by a predetermined amount or more of external force, is laminated to vicinities of the parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding members such that the vicinities of the parting surfaces are formed in predetermined shapes, before the mother-molds are molded.

16. (Withdrawn) The producing method of the parting surface covering masks of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

attaching adjusting members, which are plastically deformed by at least at least a predetermined amount of external force, to at least one of peripheries of the mask bodies and portions of the mask bodies facing the parting surfaces; and

forming the adjusting members in correspondence with shapes of surfaces of the coated-portion molding members by pressing the mask bodies toward the coated-portion molding members in a state in a state in which the mask bodies to which the adjusting members being attached are temporarily mounted to the coated-portion molding members.

17. (Currently amended) A mask for covering parting surfaces, the mask being mountable to molding members corresponding to portions of a molded body surface on which a coating is formed, before a molding material which forms the molded body is filled into a mold composed of a plurality of molding member components, with molding portions being formed at some of the molding member components, the mask having a shape that corresponds to the surface shape of the coated-portion molding member,

wherein the mask is formed by using the coated portion molding member, and covers parting surfaces of the coated-portion molding member in the state in which the mask is mounted to the coated-portion molding member,

said mask including mask bodies, whose peripheries correspond to peripheries of the parting surfaces and whose portions facing the parting surfaces are formed in correspondence with the parting surfaces; and

adjusting portions, which are fixed to at least the peripheries of the facing portions of the mask bodies, and whose portions fixed to the mask bodies are formed in correspondence with shapes of the parting surfaces,

wherein the adjusting portions are formed by time-hardening members [[harden]] hardened after an elapse of predetermined period of time, wherein the time-hardening members can tightly contact the mask bodies, can be plastically deformed and partially cut off by an external force applied thereof, and are integrally bonded to the mask bodies by hardening while adhering to the mask bodies.

Please add the following new claims

18. (New) The improved apparatus of claim 8, wherein said peripheral portion is circular.

19. (New) The improved apparatus of claim 8, wherein said peripheral portion is formed from a rigid material.

20. (New) The improved apparatus of claim 8, wherein said mask includes at least one member for removably mounting said peripheral portion to said molding members.

21. (New) The improved apparatus of claim 8, wherein said mask includes at least one gripping portion.

22. (New) The improved apparatus of claim 8, wherein said mask includes a concave or convex central portion.